

Unit 12. King Salmon River Corridor

Background

Land Status. Most of this unit is owned by the state. Two Native allotments are located in the unit. The upper portion of the unit is adjacent to Wood-Tikchik State Park. Mining claims are located in the middle portion of the corridor.

Miles of River. The main channel of the King Salmon River extends for 47 miles.

Access. Accessibility is generally difficult by airplane. Access by motorboat is difficult or infeasible in the upper portion of the unit and moderate in the lower. Headwater lakes in the unit and in Wood-Tikchik State Park provide floating drop-off points. The unit is far from major airports.

Existing Development. Two cabins and one site which has been used as a commercial sport fishing camp are located in the unit.

Fisheries. The unit provides important king salmon spawning habitat and excellent fishing for freshwater fish. Rainbow trout and sockeye salmon are the species of primary interest to anglers.

Subsistence fishing use is low. Sport fishing use is currently low and is mostly commercial. Commercial use is based out of nearby camps or is fly-in use relying on motorboats stored on the Nushagak.

Wildlife. Moose density is moderate to high; caribou density is seasonally moderate; brown bear density is high. The King Salmon Hills provide essential brown bear denning habitat.

Subsistence hunting for moose and caribou is low. Winter hunting use is almost entirely by local residents. Sport hunting use is moderate, increasing, and is chiefly guided brown bear hunting and nonresident caribou and moose hunting. Most of the fall hunting use is sport use.

Trails and Easements. None.

Other Values. Scenic values are moderate because of landscape diversity near the river and views of nearby highlands. Floating use is currently low but increasing. Local residents use the unit for trapping.

Management Intent

Primitive use experience.

Management Guidelines

Long-term Use (longer than 14 consecutive days at one site)

Permanent facilities	Prohibited.
Temporary facilities	Prohibited.
Trapping cabins	Prohibited.
Boat storage	Prohibited.
Airstrip development	Prohibited.
Docks: permanent	Prohibited.
temporary	Prohibited.
Other uses	May be allowed (case-by-case).

Short-term Use (14 consecutive days or less at one site)

See Short-term Uses (generally allowed uses) in Chapter 2.

Other Guidelines Specific to this Unit

- U12.1 Long-term Uses Associated with Mineral/Oil and Gas Activity. For long-term uses associated with mineral and oil and gas exploration and development, see Chapter 2 guideline.
- U12.2 Siting Criteria. Long-term uses should be sited out of view from the main channels of the Nushagak River and Chichitnok River.
- U12.3 Renewal of Existing Trapping Cabin Permit. A trapping cabin construction permit was granted in this unit in 1986. Renewal of the existing trapping cabin permit may be allowed in accordance with AS 38.95.075.

Public Use Sites

See Public Use Sites in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on maps in Appendix C.

Site 18 Campsite and floatplane landing area on unnamed lake near the headwaters of the King Salmon River.

Recommendations for this Unit

None.